

An

Inaugural Dissertation
on Rheumatism.

Doct^r Cullen, defines Rheumatism, Pyrexia
pain about the parts, following the tract
of the muscles, attacking the knees, & larger
articulations, in preference to those of the
feet or hands, increased by external heat.
It somewhat resembles Gout, but may be
distinguished, by its attacking the large
while Gout seizes the smaller joints, it
generally comes on more gradually, it is
caused, by cold, or, something, which checks
perspiration, but the surest diagnostic, is
that it is not preceded, by symptoms of
disordered Stomach, which always give
warning of the approach of Gout.

I am disposed to think it is frequently an
hereditary disease, because I have seen
it descending from Father to Son & affecting
numerous individuals of the same family.
It is certain, that some families are much
more liable to it than others, though like
other diseases which are universally acknow-
ledged to be hereditary, it may be, & often is

A's divine
 when she
 as said,
 Quite a
 strong &
 of life is
 A, remain
 most for
 A has gen
 inflame
 her with
 it very a
 A is cause
 or any the
 The large
 the camp
 has syst
 it reigns
 as a ovi
 by, retast
 He rain
 leaving a
 they have

2
section where there is none of this congenital
predisposition.

It is divided into Acute & Chronic, the first
when there is pain & inflammation, the
second, when there is pain without fever.
Acute Rheumatism, generally attacks, the
strong & robust, of middle age, but no time
of life is exempt from it.

It prevails at all seasons of the year, but is
most frequent in Spring & Autumn.

It has generally been considered a purely
inflammatory disease, but there must be
something peculiar in the action, for
it very rarely terminates in suppuration.

It is caused by exposure to cold, by wet clothes
or any thing suddenly checking perspiration.

The large joints are generally the seat of
the complaint, but no part of the muscu-
lar system is exempt from it, sometimes
it seizes some one or other of the viscera
as an original disease, more frequently
by metastasis from some other part.

The pains often shift from one joint, to another
leaving a swelling & soreness in all the parts
they have occupied.

The
 and
 the
 the
 air
 a
 As
 our
 is to
 just
 need
 It is
 by 13
 and
 it is
 could
 and
 slope
 a tree
 into
 2 p.m.
 After
 the
 catch
 for a

There is in the early stage commonly some
 sweat, but it produces no alleviation of
 the pain, & very rarely does any good.

The urine is scanty & high coloured, until the
 disease begins to break, when often there is
 a profuse discharge by the kidneys.

As this is a highly inflammatory disease
 our first object, in beginning the cure
 is to reduce vascular action, & for this
 purpose, copious & repeated venesection is
 necessary. There is no substitute for the lancet.
 It is customary in England to treat the disease
 by Bark & Lonic in general but however well
 such practice may answer in that country
 it would in ours, be attended, with very bad
 consequences. Sir George Doyce, is ranked
 among the advocates, for this practice; he
 objects to the Lancet, as giving the disease
 a tendency, to a metastasis upon some
 vital part, but this seems to be a groundless
 apprehension.

After plentiful venesection, the bowels
 should be evacuated, by Mercurial or saline
 cathartics. Much purging, will not answer
 for as the pain is greatly aggravated by motion.

the good
he was
arising
creating
popular
never at
have been
his often
at times
employed
is still for
Open Camp
When one
left up, a
relief is
it does not
not always
left up for
The Local
to. To place
he of great
of practice
Physician
applying a
heat, it is for

the good
he was
arising
creating
popular
never at
have been
his often
at times
employed
is still for
Open Camp
When one
left up, a
relief is
it does not
not always
left up for
The Local
to. To place
he of great
of practice
Physician
applying a
heat, it is for

The good effects from the vaccination, will be more than counterbalanced by the injury arising from getting up.

Sweating has long been, & still is, a very popular remedy, in Rheumatism. We should never attempt to excite it before, vaccination have been freely used, it will do no good, but often aggravate the disease.

Antimonial & Nitrous powders, should be employed in the first place, & when action is still further reduced, the, *Pulvis Spicae* & *Opia Composita*, will often be of service.

When once excited diaphoresis should be kept up, at least twenty four hours, or until relief is obtained, checked sooner, than this it does no good, often harm. Sweating does not always produce relief, I have seen it kept up for days without any sensible benefit. The Local affection should be attended to. Topical Bloodletting by cups or Leeches will be of great service.

A practice borrowed from the Russian Physicians has been lately introduced, of applying very cold substances to the affected part, it is favorably spoken of by some, but

seems to
 involve
 distinct
 keeping
 them
 a sense
 when
 is seen
 way, a
 other
 diapha
 to be
 than
 is the
 mon, c
 Oreati
 a sense
 eous of
 effects
 marked
 the pre
 vation
 the Hea
 so great
 to give

seems to be rather a doubtful remedy, & is inferior to local resection.

Blisters frequently repeated will be of great benefit, it will however be best not to apply them until vascular action has been advanced.

When Rheumatism attacks any of the viscera it is to be treated, in the same way, as if the disease had originated from any other cause, only we should recur to diaphoretics earlier, in order to relieve the viscera, by determining to the surface.

When it seizes upon the Bowels, Dysentery is the result, which is to be treated, as common, cases, from any other cause.

Occasionally the Heart, is affected by this disease. ~~It is a~~ There are a good many cases of this disease on record. It chiefly affects young persons, & is very fatal. It is marked by great anxiety & oppression, about the precordia, short cough, difficult respiration, & acute pain in the region of the Heart. The palpitation is sometimes so great, as to be audible, & to shake the bed. It generally succeeds an attack of common

When
 in a
 mid
 ung
 H
 -let
 drap
 H
 Lem
 the p
 pain
 a fac
 di lo
 H
 hegi
 Gica
 Hob
 ole
 -p
 -rate
 con
 lo
 Carou
 about
 H
 is
 but
 in
 ill
 re

Rheumatism, & when it comes on the pains in the limbs cease. On dissection the Heart is found enlarged, & the Pericardium adhering to it; the left Ventricle, is most affected. It should be met in the onset, with Blood-letting, followed by cordial & stimulating diaphoretics.

When there is pain in the Loins it is called Lumbago, it often comes on suddenly, while the patient, is making some exertion, & the pain is occasionally so severe, as to induce a fear, that some of the Vertebrae are dislocated.

It is to be treated by copious venesection and purging, with local bloodletting & Blesters.

Gout is a Rheumatic affection of the Hip joint, most frequently met with in old persons, & commonly of a chronic character. It is to be managed like similar complaints in any other part.

Chronic Rheumatism consists, in pain about the joints, without any fever. It is sometimes an original disease but more frequently the consequence of ill managed Acute Rheumatism.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting on the left page of an open notebook. The text appears to be a continuation from the previous page or a separate entry.]

His all
of the
often
His diff
between
Beller,
absence
points, &
set. by c
port.
18 oddlet
were ne
herty of
only agg
Purgins
extremes
to the ne.
There are
the Bover
storing h
Recliter
A. m. m. a
often al
where the
Nature.

7
It is always connected, with an atonic state of the system, and is a tedious complaint, often very difficult to remove.

It is difficult to draw the line of distinction between the acute & chronic forms. Doctr. Cullen, characterises the chronic, by the absence of pain, coldness, & stiffness of the joints, & especially, by the pain, being increased by cold, & relieved by heat applied to the part.

Bloodletting is generally inadvisable, & when resorted to where there is great irritability of the vessels, instead of relieving only aggravates the complaint.

Purging is much better, it takes off the excitement from the vessels, & transperts it to the rest of the system.

There seems to be a near affinity between the Bowel complaints & Rheumatism, so striking has this appeared to some, that Richter contends, that Dysentery is a Rheumatism of the Bowels. These diseases often alternate, the limbs being relieved when the Bowels are affected & vice versa. Nature therefore seems to indicate this

a and
 ditch
 why
 I am
 I am
 am a
 to way
 Diap
 the
 a few
 sheet
 in the
 by the
 large
 Torrap
 2 in to
 of Guad
 Rabe's
 green
 as much
 follow
 nearly
 The Ephe
 nearly
 in 1800

8
as an outlet for the disease, & if a spontaneous
discharge from the Bowels, relieves the limbs
why may not an artificial one do the
same?

There is a vast variety of remedies used, for the
 cure of Chronic Rheumatism. We shall have
to name them, frequently.

Diaphoretics are much used. The warm
Baths, & Dover's powder, though they may be
useful, yet, as they are apt to excite profuse
sweating, which would be a delicious remedy,
in the advanced stage, should be superadded
by these articles, which determine gently to the
surface. The Volatile alkali, Gum Guaiacum
Terebinthina & Terebinthina, are very beneficial.
The two first are the best. The volatile tincture
of Guaiacum is generally employed.

Professor Chapman thinks, that, it is, usually,
given in doses entirely too small. He directs
as much as the Stomach will bear at night,
followed by hot wine whey, which he says
rarely fails to produce sweat & relieve the pain.
Sulphur is very useful, & is thought to be partic-
ularly applicable to those cases, which occur in
miasmatic Countries & denote something of a

2nd bold
 & said
 .uation
 high
 it as P
 3 ver.
 4 night
 otherwise
 P. p. 10
 in paper
 simulate
 telephone
 to city, is
 2nd line
 brady,
 in close
 turn a
 essence
 very weak
 2nd all
 it to a
 he came
 y. chas.
 seen it

parasympathetic type.

The Colchicum Autumnale, Meadow Saffron is said to be more effectual, in Chronic Rheumatism, even, than in Gout, & is declared by high authority, to possess as much power over it, as Peruvian Bark exerts in Intermittent Fever. The dose is a tea-spoonful ^{of the saturated vinous solution} morning & night, to be followed by a free use of diluent drinks.

Pepsisima, Rheumatism used, is much used in popular practice, & has acquired considerable reputation. The warmer infusion, is an active diaphoretic, & the same preparation taken cold, is a pretty certain diuretic.

The juice of the common Potcherry, with a little brandy, added, to preserve it, often proves useful in doses of a wine glassful three or four times a day.

Anemic has done good, Peruvian Bark is sometimes very useful.

If all these fail, we resort to Mercury, & push it to a gentle salivation, as soon as the mouth becomes affected, the disease generally yields, & so great is the power of the medicine over it, that it will sometimes recur, so

have
 been
 doctor
 in the
 and we
 men
 in all
 things
 in w
 system
 him a
 the se
 aggravi
 it is h
 the the
 know
 that
 by the
 of use
 the re
 much
 of pain
 till con
 or four
 appear
 and Rh

soon as the pyrexia ceases. All the remedies I have mentioned occasionally fail.

Doctor Chapman has introduced a medicine in the management of these obstinate cases, of which he speaks in the highest terms of commendation, the Galium. He has tried it in numerous cases & found it eminently beneficial. He thinks it best adapted to those in which there is great exhaustion of the system, with coldness of the extremities, the skin either dry or covered with a cold sweat, the joints stiff & swollen, & the pain greatly aggravated by change of weather.

It is his opinion that from the weakness of the circulation, the vessels are readily thrown into spasm, from ^{which} arises the pain, & that this is the case, he thinks is proved, by the fact, that it never terminates in effusion of any kind. He directs 12 or 15 grs of the ^{powdered leaves} three or four times a day to be continued, three or four weeks, to be gradually augmented, until some effect is manifested, sometimes three or four times the quantity will be necessary. Topical applications are beneficial - Perpetual Blisters, or what will be better caustic

I have
 to go
 Home will
 pretty
 the
 tickets
 my &
 have a
 chance
 on the
 general
 mat
 was ce
 I do no
 have a
 it
 credit
 except
 of some
 medic
 time, a
 was oft
 have a
 Coldwa

issues near the affected joint. The use of
the flesh brush, should be enjoined.

Flannel should be worn next the skin, & it
will be sometimes very useful to roll the limb
pretty tightly in the same -

The diet in Acute Rheumatism, should be
strictly antiphlogistic. No animal food in
any shape should be allowed. He should
live on vegetables, his drink should be water
alone or acidulated with lemon or lime juice.
In the Chronic form the diet should be more
generous & nutritious. Removing to a warmer cli-
mate, or travelling, when all these remedies fail
has cured the disease.

I do not pretend in the foregoing essay, to
have advanced any thing new, neither I hope,
is it expected, that I should throw any
additional light, on a subject which has
occupied the attention, & undergone the scrutiny
of some of the ablest men, the science of
medicine can boast. I had for a considerable
time, entertained the opinion, that Rheumatism
was often a hereditary disease, but should not
have ventured to express that I did not seem that, Dr
Caldwell entertained similar views on

The sub-
stantive
by fac-
a pe-
on par-
dise.

the subject. The position I think is very tenable in theory, & certainly supported by facts. I see no reason why rheumatism or a predisposition to it, should not depend on particular conformation, ^{as much} as any other disease, which is acknowledged to be hereditary.

Wm J. Minors
Louisa County
Virginia